

Survey Finds Little Growth in Physician-Patient E-Mail

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The number of physicians who use e-mail has changed little in the past four years, despite an increasing demand among patients, according to a [survey](#) released Thursday by the Center for Studying Health System Change, the *Associated Press* reports.

The survey finds that 24% of physicians used e-mail to communicate with patients from 2004 through 2005, compared with 20% who used e-mail for patient communication from 2000 through 2001.

The survey also finds that e-mail was used by:

- 47% of physicians in health maintenance organizations;
- 43% of medical school staff;
- 29% of physicians in group practices of over 50 physicians; and
- 20% of physicians in clinics with nine or fewer physicians.

The survey includes data from nearly 6,000 physicians, with a response rate of 52%, while an older survey included data from 12,000 physicians with a response rate of 59% (*Associated Press*, 9/21).

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